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News Release

Basketball Teams Dominate Grande Prairie Tournament

YELLOWKNIFE (December 14, 2007) – The NWT recently attended the "Wolves Senior Basketball Classic", an early season high school tournament hosted by Grande Prairie Regional College. It is one of the largest tournaments in Western Canada with teams from Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Wolves Basketball is committed to the development of basketball in the north and this tournament is part of the process.

Our teams dominated with the boys placing first and the girls second out of 16 Northern Alberta teams. Final scores were 77-59 over High Level (boys) and 55-53 for Beaverlodge (girls). The girls won every game except the final, losing by only two points. Individual achievements - Tyler Wells was the final game MVP hitting 10 three pointers and Hailey Grayston was our MVP. The two Yellowknife-based high performance teams train and compete 10 months per year and are comprised of players ranging in age from 13-19. Both teams practice three times per week and play in the Yellowknife Basketball league.

As a result of our participation in this tournament, 6 NWT players were scouted by the Grand Prairie College team: Hailey Grayston, Chelsea Comeau, Tyler Wells, Kiefer Pokiak, Quincy Thomas and Clarissa Kogiak.

"Our girl's team really came together as we were missing two of our starters, co-captain Elora Braden and injured player Sabrina Lakhani. One of our athletes, Jennifer Smith, went to the hospital with a knee injury early in the first quarter of the championship game. Our team was able to work through these obstacles and step it up this past weekend proving to be a top team in the tournament, running out of gas and falling just short of the championship. We were very proud of their performance!" indicated coach Tobi Dusome.

Both the boy's and girl's teams picked up exhibition games for the junior players who didn't see court time in the tournament. They competed well and we just might be able to enter a junior team as well as senior teams in this tournament next year. Many talented young players are coming up in the ranks and we look forward to seeing their game improve.

The Grand Prairie event serves as a good tune-up for both teams who will be traveling to Hawaii for an international basketball tournament in Kona. Teams have fundraised for over a year and look forward to this event.

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